



Internationally renowned Aruban artist Gustave Nouel pays tribute to Aruba.

Native-born artist Gustave Nouel, who resides in Holland, still harbors very strong emotions for his homeland, and despite the fact that his paintings adorn the walls of noted museums around the world; he has chosen the Access Art Gallery in Oranjestad to premier his latest works.

“Monumento” is a series of paintings done in acrylics, devoted to his island that he loves, featuring many of the famous sites and scenes of Aruba, and its attractive people.

A number of the more popular tourist attractions, such as the Alto Vista Chapel and the Natural Bridge are incorporated into this series of works. In particular, a quite a few installations poignantly mourn the loss of the Natural Bridge that collapsed just a few short months ago. Gustave has let the paint run down the canvas in one of the renderings, reflecting his tears at the loss of this island’s unique landmark.

Present at the opening were two of the icons of Aruba’s cultural community, Padu Lampe and Hubert (Lio) Booi, artist and composers themselves. Padu Lampe with Rufo Wever composed Aruba’s National Anthem, and Lio Booi is the founder of the Instituto di Cultura. Gustave has immortalized them in a collage painting, with various scenes of their many accomplishments.

Padu and Rufo were the first to receive autographed copies of his new book, “Art in Aruba” which is an lively “how to” of painting in acrylics, using the very paintings now being displayed at the Access Art Gallery with the cooperation of the Pro Crea Foundation. Joining Gustave to present the book were the publishers, Clayton and Stanley Brown of Multimedia International N.V. They have been working for months along with Gustave and graphic artist Joost Howard to produce this very attractive and entertaining manual that has been printed in English, but will also be published in Dutch, Papiamentu and Spanish. In addition, present to receive an autographed copy was Myrna Jansen, Director of the Aruba Tourism Authority, who Gustave thanked for her cooperation and enthusiasm in sharing his dream to establish another niche market for Aruba, “Art Tourism.” This past year already there have been three groups from Europe that have traveled to the island not only to enjoy its sun, sand, and sea, but also expressly to capture the island and its people on canvas. Gustave aspires to develop this program more fully with North American clients as well.

The opening at Access on Thursday evening was not only a wonderful opportunity to talk to the artist, but to his favorite models as well, including the lovely Jeuline, who inspired an entire room full of paintings. Also on display were some of his famous painted wine bottles, reminiscent of the works of Toulouse – Lautrec, but with the unique Nouel style.

This exciting and touching exhibit, one artist’s love song to his beloved native land, can be viewed at the Access Art Gallery in downtown Oranjestad through November 23rd. Also on display are the beautiful glass pieces of Aruban artist Melvin Anderson and Miriam Monasterios.

His book will be on sale at all local outlets and hotel newsstands, and makes a wonderful souvenir and gift for any aspiring artists, with step-by-step instructions in capturing the many beautiful elements that comprise the Aruban experience.